

THE WARL GATE EXTENSION IN GOODLUCK MINE, VIA GELLIA, CROMFORD,  
DERBYSHIRE

by Chris Bull

Investigation of Warl Gate was made with the aid of Andrew Limb in early 1977. Where Warl Gate leaves Goodluck vein there was a wall of backfill four feet high in a passage six feet high and three feet wide. After crawling onto the top of the backfill and along the passage the space decreased to 12 inches between the backfill and the roof. At a point approximately 50 ft from the Goodluck vein we encountered a fall which completely blocked the passage and the way on.

Along the crawl three raises had been noted. Exploration of these showed that all three were joined up and formed a passage about 6 feet above the level. At the end a climb went up into a stope at right angles to the level. By squeezing through a hole another, larger, stope was located. This was about 20 feet above the level and directly above the fall. It was decided that the stope was not the safest of places so any chance of digging over the top was abandoned. Added to this was the fact that there was no space in the level to attempt a dig.

Reluctantly it was decided that the only way through would be to clear the backfill in the level and then forepole through the fall.

Tubs were oiled, shovels sharpened, tempers frayed, oaths cursed and pints were drunk at the Pig of Lead but it was 10 months before the level was cleared and track laid up to the fall. Rails, timber and forepoles were "commissioned" and transported by Land Rover to Goodluck to aid driving. Added problems were then found in that not only was the roof loose but the sides as well. During the forepoling air was present in the form of a strong draught but after holing through this seems to have disappeared. Underneath the rock on the floor crushed timbers were found as well as a pair of old miners' boots, but, alas, no historical lead miner. Had there been one we believed this would have been a record.

On the other side of the fall the level was clear of backfill but the floor was deep in clay and barytes fallen from a vein in the roof. This was duly cleared up and track laid up to the junction where a small hole had to be filled in. It was then decided to lay track up to an old stope in the floor near the end of Holmes vein. The stope extended under the level either way and was about 12 feet deep in the middle sloping downwards either way. This is to be used in the next project as a tipping site. On the far side of the stope is the base of a 45° slope of deads, which were above the passage at one time. By scrambling up the slope the solid roof is reached at 20 feet above the level. The way on is then to climb over the top of the deads and drop down into a small chamber where it is rumoured there should be a shaft to the surface. This is subject to further digging and following of the draught. The extension adds some 250 feet to the previously known 3500 feet of adits in the Goodluck Mine, and clearly there is still more to be found. The position of the extension is shown in relation to the rest of the mine in the inset to the plan, taken from Ron Amner and Peter Naylor's plan in Bulletin P.D.M.H.S., vol. 5, no. 4, Oct. 1973.

Thanks go to everybody who lent a hand or equipment during the project. If you require any further information please contact me on Langley Mill 63108 and we will be pleased to arrange a visit. If you would like to join in with the present project of reopening a shaft, the one opposite Warl Gate (at present 65 feet deep and still going) to reach lower levels and possible caverns measureless to man, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Entrance

GOOD LUCK MINE

WARL GATE EXTENSION

Roof fallen onto floor to leave 45° slope

Hole in floor 10 Ft. deep

Clay Pipe found

To Entrance Approx 700'

Good Luck Vein  
Cemented Archway

SHAFT  
60 Ft.+  
Deep

WARL GATE

Old Miners Initials  
1831

Deads

Hole up to solid  
roof

HOLMES  
VEIN

Raises leading to stope.

Timbered Fall Section.

Deads

Vein in roof  
Pb + Ba SO<sub>4</sub>

Deads in passage roof

# WARL GATE EXTENSION

# GOOD LUCK MINE

Via Gellia

Surveyed by Chris Bull & Andy Limb. 1978

Deads

Small hole in  
floor

Deads

Vein

Solid roof  
loose infill  
on floor

Scale 0 20 Feet

